

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: CTH WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION

1. IN AN AD HOC MEETING IN TEGUCIGALPA NOV. 24 REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIONS AFFILIATED TO THE HONDURAN WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (CTH) RESOLVED TO HOLD A MASSIVE WORKER-CAMPESINO DEMONSTRATION IN SAN PEDRO SULA DECEMBER 15 IN SUPPORT OF THE GOH'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PND). THE CTH LEADERSHIP EXPECTS TO MODEL THE UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION AFTER THEIR SUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF JANUARY 13, 1974.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH LABOFF NOV. 25 FESITRANH PRESIDENT CELEO GONZALEZ AND CTH SECGEN VICTOR ARTILES DISCUSSED THE CONFEDERATION'S GOALS. FIRST, THE NEW DEMONSTRATION IS A DIRECT FOLLOW-UP TO THE ONE HELD IN JANUARY IN ORDER TO REAFFIRM THE LABOR MOVEMENT'S SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ OUTLINED JANUARY 1. SECONDLY IT IS AIMED TO PRESSURE THE GOH TO FULFILL THE PLAN'S GOALS. (LABOR IS TIRED OF GOVERNMENT INERTIA AND WANTS ACTION ON SEVERAL ITEMS, PARTICULARLY ON AGRARIAN REFORM LAW.) THIRDLY, IT IS INTENDED TO SERVE NOTICE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PROGRAMS STILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRY'S MASS INSTITUTIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE CTH HAS SEVERAL PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME IF THERE IS TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OF JANUARY'S PERFORMANCE. MOST
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OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARRIVED BY TRAIN FOR THE EARLIER

DEMONSTRATION BUT PORTIONS OF THE RAILROADS ARE STILL INOPERABLE DUE TO THE HURRICANE DAMAGE. THIS WILL LIMIT THE NUMBER WITH ACCESS TO TRAIN TRANSPORTATION. SECONDLY, DUE TO HURRICANE RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT THE NORTH COAST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A GREATLY DIMINISHED INCOME, THEREBY REDUCING CASH AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORTING THE DEMONSTRATION'S COSTS.

4. SINCE THE MOOD OF LABOR LEADERSHIP, DESPITE ITS CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT INERTIA, IS STILL BASICALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT, A POSITION NOW ALMOST TWO YEARS OLD, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THIS UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION WILL SERVE TO STEP UP THE PACE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS.

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